



Learning Activity - Key Stage 3

This resource provides learning activities for your students using People's Collection Wales. It is one of a series of six relating to Paul Robeson for KS3.

Let Paul Robeson Sing!
Paul Robeson's Early Life
Paul Robeson- An Education
Paul Robeson: Global Citizen
Paul Robeson: Stage and Screen
Paul Robeson in Wales



Paul Robeson: Global Citizen



By South Wales Miners Library

Introduction

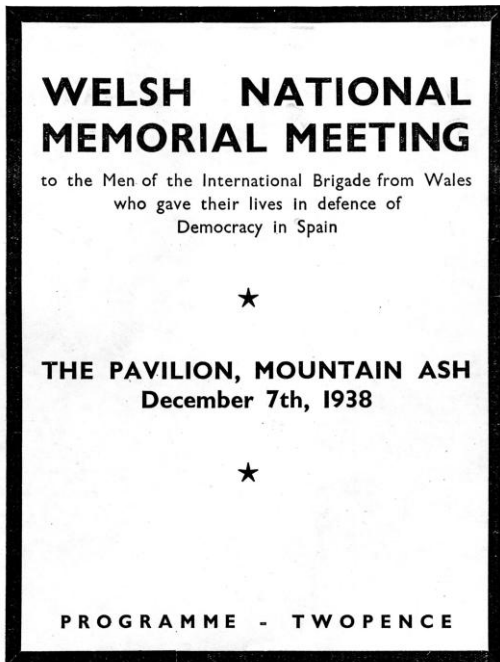
What part did Paul Robeson have to play in helping to shape changes to civil rights around the world?

This unit supports investigations into a significant person from the twentieth century who was an international figure but with links to Wales. It encourages investigations and analysis of the role of Robeson in civil rights movements and how he has contributed to shaping the world we live in today.

Tasks and learning objectives

- 1 Robeson in Spain
- 2 Civil Rights and Wrongs
- 3 What significance does Robeson have for our world?

1. Robeson in Spain



Programme of Welsh National Memorial meeting, 1938



Portrait of Henry Dobson, International Brigadier

By 1936, as Europe lurched towards the Second World War, Robeson linked the fight against fascism with the struggle in his own country and other countries.

He saw the passionate commitment of Welsh working-class people joining the International Brigadiers to fight with the Republicans in Spain against the fascists. He was invited to sing at a National Memorial Meeting in The Pavilion, Mountain Ash on 7 December 1938. Early that year Robeson, with his wife, had visited Spain to sing to the Republican soldiers and their supporters.

What do you already know about the rise of fascism in Europe in the first half of the twentieth century?

What were the links between Robeson, Spain and Wales?

Link to images on People's Collection Wales website

[Programme of Welsh National Memorial meeting](#)
[Portrait of Henry Dobson, International Brigadier](#)

2. Civil Rights and Wrongs



Peekshill Riots, 1949



Robeson on an anti-segregation march, 1948

What does having 'civil rights' mean?

Do you have civil rights?

The civil rights we have today have been hard-won by many people in the past. Paul Robeson was one person who wanted to make a change to the lives of many oppressed people around the world, including African-Americans.

Information on equality and diversity in Wales:

<http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/wales>

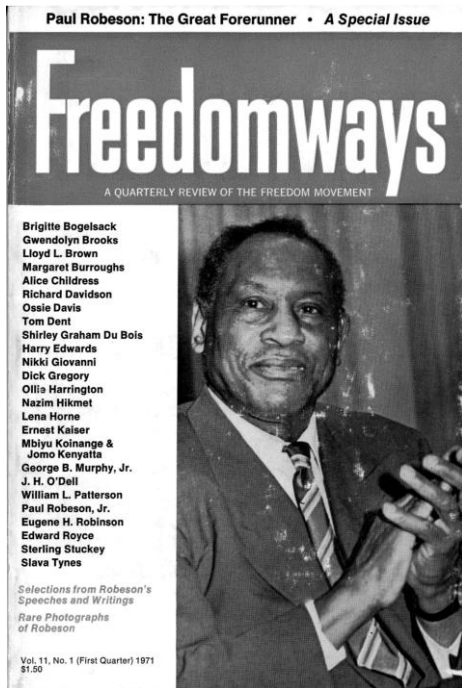
<http://www.wales.gov.uk/topics/equality>

Link to images on People's Collection Wales website

[Peekshill Riots, 1949](#)

[Robeson on an anti-segregation march, 1948](#)

3. What significance does Paul Robeson have today?



Freedomways Journal, 1971

Paul Robeson's journey throws light on to the recent past, and continues to shape our world today.

His fight against injustice and segregation laid the foundations for the Civil Rights and Black Awareness Movements in America and countries beyond.

From investigating the Let Paul Robeson Sing material would you agree that Paul Robeson would be remembered for the following?

That he:

- had many achievements and firm beliefs
- struggled for international understanding
- actively pursued peace
- fought against racism and for civil rights
- resisted stereotyping and created positive role models
- celebrated the cultures of ordinary people from around the world.

Link to image on People's Collection Wales website

[Freedomways Journal, 1971](#)